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DEMOCRATIC
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WEST GERMANY BLOCKS INNER-GERMAN TRADE

West German official circles are deliberately blocking the development of normal trade between the two halves of Germany, it was officially stated in East Berlin on August 19th.

Owing to all sorts of obstacles erected by West German official circles, total deliveries from West to East Germany in the first seven months of 1957 fell well below the 1956 figures for the same period (1956: 313 million marks — 1957: 278 million marks).

The fall was particularly pronounced in the deliveries of iron and steel, which decreased from 64 million marks in 1956 to 36 million marks in 1957.

The fall in West German deliveries has not been caused by any inability on the part of the German Democratic Republic to meet its liabilities, it was officially stated. On the contrary, deliveries from East to West Germany increased from 322 million marks in the first seven months of 1956 to 440 million marks in the same period in 1957.

Commenting on these statistics, the East Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland" stated on August 20th:

"The Adenauer government is attempting to delay the socialist construction in our state, trying to get us into economic difficulties, or to increase the difficulties which we already have in supplying our industry with steel, hard coal and coke. The experiences of the past few years show, however, that the imperialists are unable to stop the work of socialist construction in the German Democratic Republic. We form a part of the great camp of Socialism, and have its help, particularly the help of the Soviet Union, in overcoming all difficulties."

The Torturers & Their Victims

An Open Letter to West Germany's President

In West Germany today nazi leaders are living in ease on large pensions, or working in well-paid jobs. At the same time many of their surviving victims are barely existing on the poverty line.

This is the theme of a letter sent early in August by Professor Franz Rauhut of Wuerzburg, West Germany, to West German President Heuss. The letter is reproduced below.

Permit me to bring the following facts to your attention:

Gottlob Berger, SS General, Director of the SS Main Office, for some months administrator of Rosenberg's ministry in Russia, was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment after the war, but was freed in 1951, and now writes articles for the successful monthly journal "Nation Europa", which is published in Coburg.

Karl W., 45 years old, spent eight years in prison and in Dachau and Buchenwald as organiser of a resistance goup, and was freed from Buchenwald in 1945. Due to want and maltreatment in the concentration camps, he is unable to work, but he still receives no pension. His family of four is supported by his wife, who despite illness works as a washerwoman.

Kurt Meyer, Major General of the Waffen-SS, called "Panzermeyer", in 1944 commander of the SS "Hitler Youth" Panzer Division in Normandy, where he had Canadian prisoners of war murdered, was condemned to death in December 1945, had his sentence altered and was set free in 1954. He is now a financially successful writer on the war.

Frau Else T., 56, as a practising Christian, refused to agree to the compulsory enlistment of her daughter in the SS. She was sentenced by a special court, and because she appealed against the sentence, was sent to a nerve clinic for investigation of her mental state. Here, partly as a result of many injections, she became really ill. She has still received no pension.

Herr Derichsweiler, Nazi Reich Student Leader, SS-Leader on "Panzermeyer's" staff, states in public meetings that he is proud to have been

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The Torturers & Their Victims

a war criminal, and that the last word has not been said; National Socialism is in the process of gradual liberation. He is German Party member of the Hesse provincial parliament and a member of important parliamentary commissions.

Frau Berta W., 66. Her son was a political prisoner in Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps from 1935 until he was murdered in Buchenwald on December 15th 1940. She has no pension and exists on 70 marks a month social assistance.

Sepp Dietrich, commander of Hitler's SS bodyguard in 1928, Lieutenant Colonel of the Waffen-SS, sentenced for a number of war crimes, set free in 1955, but again condemned before a German court for manslaughter (appeal pending). Immediately after his release he took up an office post held open for him in Landsberg. Dietrich is a stepson of the owner of the Monninger Brewery in Karlsruhe.

Frau Mathilde L., 65. Her husband was imprisoned for a long time as a religious opponent of National Socialism, for six months in Dachau concentration camp. He was killed in the Volkssturm. She gets 139 marks pension as an official's widow but has received no compensation.

Heydrich's widow. Reinhard Heydrich was one of the most terrible leaders of the Third Reich: notorious chief of the SS Reich Security Office and of the Gestapo, SS General, Reichsprotector of Bohemia and Moravia, where he was killed by independence fighters. His widow gets a general's pension and has received large sums in back payments, has prosperous café in Schleswig-Holstein frequented by former active Nazis and SS-men.

Frau Dora W., over 65 years old. Her husband was an opponent of Hitler on religious grounds, was sent to Dachau concentration camp as a political prisoner, and treated with extreme cruelty there by the SS (this was confirmed during the Nazi period in the Munich psychiatric clinic). He was never able to work again after release, and died in 1947 from the effects of his ill-treatment. As compensation his widow received the paltry sum of 1,500 marks.

Dr. Scheel, Nazi Reich Student Leader, was greatly feared for his Gestapo methods in the university in 1934 and 1935. He was later a Gauleiter and Reichsstatthalter, and always held high positions in the SS. Today he has a prosperous medical practice.

Frau Weiglein in Zellingen, Unterfranken. Her husband was hanged from a pear-tree in front of his house in April 1945 because he had said it was madness to dynamite the Main bridge. His widow has this year at last received a small pension.

This list, which could be extended, was prepared by the Anti-SS meeting in Karlstadt.

Professor Karl Rauhut

(published in "Die Tat", Frankfurt [Main], August 17th 1957)

VISITORS FROM FAR & WIDE

Mongolian Prime Minister J. Zedenbal headed a government delegation from the Mongolian People's Republic which visited the German Democratic Republic in the second half of August. At the conclusion of the one-week visit, the governments of the two countries signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation which is expected to lead to increased trade and extended cultural cooperation between the two countries.

*

V. A. Sugathadasa, Mayor of Colombo, headed a delegation of Colombo city councillors who spent a week in the German Democratic Republic in August. They were mainly interested in local administration. Mr. Sugathadasa invited Friedrich Ebert, Lord Mayor of East Berlin, to visit Colombo in the near future. An East German football team has also been invited to play in Colombo in November this year.

*

Greek parliamentarians of various parties paid a visit to the German Democratic Republic and had talks on August 19th with Heinrich Rau, Minister for Foreign and Inner-German Trade, on increasing agricultural exports from Greece in exchange for more industrial goods from East Germany.

*

Faker Kajali, Syrian Minister of Public Works and Communications, toured the German Democratic Republic in August. He visited industrial towns, an institute of agriculture, children's homes and holiday centres, and had talks with Heinrich Rau, Minister for Foreign and Inner-German Trade, and with Erwin Kramer, Minister of Communications.

*

French, English and German language teachers met at Weimar, East Germany, for a fourteen-day summer school, followed by a week's tour of the German Democratic Republic. They discussed special problems of language teaching, particularly in the teaching of English and French in East Germany. A group of Soviet teachers of German arrived later and toured the Republic with them.

*

Forty Christians from the U.S.A., England, Denmark, India, Holland and other countries laid wreaths on the grave of murdered anti-nazi resistance fighter Pastor Paul Schneider when they visited Buchenwald concentration camp on August 17th. They were invited to East Germany by the Brandenburg Evangelical Provincial Church Council.

Yiddish Theatre for Berlin Festival

The Warsaw Yiddish Theatre will visit East Berlin in October for the first time, to present plays in Yiddish at the East Berlin Music and Drama Festival.

Musical high lights of the international festival, which is being held for the first time, will include performances by the London Mozart Players, and concerts conducted by Leningrad conductor Arwid Jansons.

Films to be shown at the festival will include the American film "Marty", and "The Witches of Salem", made jointly by an East German-French company based on the play, "The Crucible", by American author Arthur Miller. East German theatres will present a number of premiers, including "The Good Woman of Szechuan" by Bertolt Brecht.

WHY EXPORTS?

International Trade and Democratic Germany

Some doubts have been expressed in East Germany as to the necessity of exporting so much of the industrial production and retaining so little for the home market. Here are the main points from an article explaining the present situation which appeared in the East Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland" on August 22nd 1957:

The German Democratic Republic is one of the most highly industrialised countries in Europe, ranking fith according to the value of industrial goods produced and second — after England — according to the number of workers engaged in industry.

But industry is here more dependent on imports than in almost any other highly industrialised country. Over forty per cent of all imports are raw materials and half-finished products.

Twice as much hard coal and metallurgical coke, for instance, is imported as can be mined in the Republic. Before World War Two the engineering firms in what is now the teritory of the German Democratic Republic could get most of their raw materials from the Rhine and Ruhr areas; but the present trade between the two German states is so much restricted that it is easier to trade with foreign countries. Inner-German trade is now only about one quarter of the interchange which used to go on inside Germany before the war.

Foodstuffs still make up more than one third of all imports, since the German Democratic Republic cannot produce anything like enough foodstuffs for its relatively dense population (over 400 per square mile; Denmark has 264, Poland 206, Switzerland 306, England 753 population per sq. mile, ed.)

About 35 per cent of wheat and 16.5 per cent of rye for bread, 20 per cent of the butter consumed, more than 15 per cent of the meat, 27 per cent of the cheese, more than 30 per cent of the vegetable and animal fats, nearly 80 per cent of the fresh fish and more than half the salted fish, as well as all citrus fruits, cocoa, coffee and tobacco consumed in the Republic have to be imported.

These imports have to be paid for with exports and it is still necessary to sell some products which could very well be used at home, such as cars, bicycles, some types of textiles, benzine and soft coal briquettes.

A very important raw material export is potash; a big proportion of the European potash reserves are to be found in the potash mines in the extreme South West of the Republic. But two thirds of the iron ores needed for East German industry, and more than 35 per cent of the phosphates for artificial manuring have to be imported.

The principal exports, however, are products of industries specially developed for the export market — engineering, particularly industrial plant, machine tools and printing machinery, fine mechanics and optics, glass and porcelain and a number of other products which involve much labour but relatively little raw ma-

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PRODUCTION UP AGAIN

Total industrial production was eight percent higher in the German Democratic Republic in the first six months of 1957 than in the corresponding period of the previous year, it was officially announced in East Berlin. The production increase was particularly notable since in the same period hours of work for 90 % of all industrial workers were cut from 48 to 45, pay remaining the same.

The rise in production was accompanied by an overall increase of seven percent in the sale of consumer goods. Meat consumption rose by five percent, butter consumption by eight percent, and egg consumption by 26 percent. On the other hand vegetable and fruit supplies were reported as unsatisfactory, owing to unfavourable weather.

The table below gives statistics for some of the main branches of production in the first six months of 1956 and 1957.

Product	First six months of 1956	1957	Percentage increase
Soft coal (million tons)	101.4	106.9	6
Pig steel (thousand tons)	1,342	1,420	6
Sulphur (thousand tons)	44.5	50.8	14
Nitrogen fertiliser (thousand tons)	152.0	158.7	4
Phosphorus fertiliser (thousand tons)	53.8	69.2	29
Automatic lathes (units)	114	150	32
TV sets	18,208	39,295	116
Wrist watches (thousands)	824	1,020	24
Refrigerators	10,685	11,697	10
Power bicycles	46,340	60,200	30
Wool textiles (million sq. metres)	3.6	6.5	82
Cotton textiles (million sq. metres)	127	146	15
Perlon textiles (thousand sq. metres)	887	1,200	35
Men's suits etc (million marks)	146	181	24
Women's dresses etc (million marks)	161	217	35
Children's clothing (million marks)	29	51	74
Furniture (million marks)	307	329	7
Cement (thousand tons)	1,558	1,686	8
Bricks (millions)	695	867	24

terial, such as toys, musical instruments, chemical products, sporting guns, clocks and watches.

Six times as much machinery was exported in 1955 as in 1950.

There have been suggestions that East German foreign trade is unnecessarily one-sided and that there should be more trade with western countries.

In this respect West German trade is even more one-sided; in 1956 nearly 95 per cent of its trade was with western capitalist countries.

Three quarters of East Germany's trade at present is with the Soviet Union, China and the other People's Democracies — more than 40 per cent with the Soviet Union alone. This is partly due to the fact that after World War Two the blockade policy cut off almost all trade between western countries and those "behind the iron curtain", so that the Socialist countries were forced to rely largely upon each other. But it is also due to the fact that trade between countries with planned economies has certain advantages.

The Soviet Union, for instance, has large reserves of natural resources which the German Democratic Republic lacks, especially iron ores and hard coal. 90 per cent of East Germany's cotton comes from the Soviet Union and a large proportion of the wheat and rye imported. On the other hand, the Soviet Union can buy all the machinery and finished goods East Germany can sell.

In addition, prices of imports from the Soviet Union, and from the other People's Democracies, are in many cases much lower than from Western countries.

You Ask — We Answer

"GERMANS HELD IN RUSSIA"?

"I have seen a number of references in the press recently to West German claims that the Russians are holding back tens of thousands of German citizens who want to return to Germany. What are the rights and wrongs of the case?"

L. Brown, Leeds, England

For many years one of the main planks of West German propaganda against the Soviet Union has been the claim that thousands, tens of thousands, or even millions of German subjects were being held against their will in the Soviet Union. It is of course a fact that in the years immediately following the war many hundreds of thousands of Germans were held in the Soviet Union as prisoners of war. At the same time hundreds of thousands of other German prisoners of war were held in Britain, America, France and other countries.

Gradually all these prisoners of war were released by the allies in both East and West, the only ones remaining in the Soviet Union being war criminals who had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Finally, in 1955, in order to clear the air for better relations between the USSR and West Germany, even these war criminals were repatriated, although many of them had committed appalling crimes, and had only served a small portion of their sentences.

With the repatriation of the last war criminals, the Soviet Union was able to announce that no further German subjects were being held as war prisoners or war criminals.

The West German Government did not intend to drop such a fine propaganda weapon, however, particulary since many hundreds of thousands of German soldiers had disappeared on the eastern front, and had never been officially declared dead; this fact meant that there were hundreds of thousands of bereaved families in West Germany who could be persuaded that the "brutal Russians" were illegally holding their sons, husbands, brothers and so on.

Mr Khrushchov, Soviet Leader, referred to this fact in a speech in East Berlin on August 13th. He said:

"Chancellor Adenauer alleges that the question of the repatriation of the Germans from the Soviet Union is the main question which prevents the improvement of relations between our countries. He ruthlessly exploits the feelings of the mothers, wives and children who lost their sons, husbands and fathers in the war.

"It is quite natural that many people have not been able, even today, to accept the thought of the death of their relatives, since they received no official notification from the nazi authorities of their death. These people believe that their relatives may still be alive.

"You, Herr Adenauer, pose as a hero fighting for the return to their families of thousands of people: but in fact you are simply exploiting feelings, since nothing can reawaken the dead.

"During the war I, and Comrade Mikoyan who stands beside me, had a great personal loss. Both of us lost our sons. They were pilots, and they never came back from missions in defence of their country. Officially they are marked as 'missing'. As a result we could demand from Germany that it return our sons to us. But I am sure that they fell in action, although their bodies have never been found... Many millions of our people fell in the war, and we should not forget that hundreds of thousands of the Soviet citizens who were dragged away to Germany during the war also failed to return home. They are 'missing' too, and we could demand from Germany that they should be returned.

"But what would be the result if we made such claims against each other? No. It would only sow more hatred. And that is what is wanted by those people who are preparing a new war."

But the question of the prisoners of war and the missing Wehrmacht soldiers is only part of the problem. Another problem which is being exploited by the West German authorities in their propaganda is that of persons of German language who have lived for hundreds of years in many parts of eastern Europe. Although the mother tongue of these people is German, they never held German citizenship, until Hitler, in his efforts to increase his fifth column in other countries, granted German citizenship to these people, in many cases whether they wanted it or not.

Now, on the basis of this one-sided war-time nazi declaration, Chancellor Adenauer is calling for the "repatriation" of these people, who have never in their lives lived in Germany, and who, under normal Soviet law, are classified as Soviet citizens. It is rather as if Hitler had declared all the persons of German descent in the United States to be German citizens, and that then, on this basis, Chancellor Adenauer was now calling for the repatriation to Germany of the millions of such people.

Referring to precisely this subject the "Times" of London stated on August 21st:

"The Soviet Union has its own nationality laws, which, no matter how arbitrary they may be, must be considered binding on those persons of German descent whose forbears chose to reside in Russia. These perforce must be accepted by those nations interested in emigration from the Soviet Union... certainly there seems no good reason why Germany should expect preferential treatment."

KARL MARX STADT COUNTY

East Germany's Industrial Heart

The county of Karl Marx Stadt is the most thickly populated of the fourteen administrative districts in East Germany — with its 950 inhabitants per square mile and twenty-five large towns. Almost every branch of industry is represented, from machine tools, office machines and automobiles to lace, underwear, perlon stockings, toys and musical instruments.

Over fifty per cent of the population is engaged directly in industrial production and about ten per cent in agriculture.

Karl Marx Stadt itself (formerly Chemnitz) is 800 years old. Three square miles of the city, mainly in the city centre, were razed to the ground by bombing raids during World War Two. Rebuilding includes a number of new factories, the opera house, central railway station, five new hospitals, a number of new schools and kindergartens and a whole new residential area in the city centre. But there is still a housing shortage and a very serious shortage of local transport facilities.

Engineering

About one third of all East German machine tool exports and much of the machinery needed for the East German engineering industry are manufactured in and around Karl Marx Stadt, which is also a textile machinery centre.

A new hydraulic plant production centre is being built up during the Second Five Year Plan in Rochlitz.

Automobiles

Zwickau is an automobile centre producing trucks and cars of various types, including the P 70 plastic bodied passenger car which came on the market two years ago and the new, smaller P 50, which will go into mass production in 1958. Zschopau produces motor-cycles, including the MZ racing motor-cycle.

Light Industries

Plauen has for many years specialised in lace-making, with exports to thirty countries; but assembly line machinery is also produced there now.

The spinning mills in the Burgstaedt, Mittweida and Floeha area supply the big textile and clothing industry in and around Karl Marx Stadt. Stockings and underwear account for about 70 per cent of all light industry in the county; this covers most of the East German demand and most of the exports — to thirty-three countries.

Musical instruments from Klingenthal and toys from the small towns in the Erzgebirge mountains, in the south of the county, are exported to forty countries.

Mining

The only hard coal deposits of importance in the German Democratic Republic are in the Zwickau—Lugau —Oelsnitz area. At present the nationally owned "Karl Liebknecht" mines in Oelsnitz produce about 30 per cent of all East German hard coal; 6,000 miners are employed here.

But the newly developed "Martin Hoop" mine in Zwickau-Poehlau has considerable hard coal reserves and is to be developed during the next eight years into the biggest hard coal mining concern in the Republic. The number of miners employed here is today six times as high as in 1945.

Iron, nickel, wolfram, lead, zinc and rare metals like cobalt and antimony are mined in small quantities in the Erzgebirge mountains. The most important centres are Aue, Johanngeorgenstadt, Rodewisch and Ehrenfriedersdorf (nickel, wolfram, cobalt, arsenic and antimony), the newly developed St. Egidien (nickel) and Freiberg (lead, zinc and silver).

The largest uranium deposits in Europe are situated in the Aue area. These are exploited by a joint Soviet-German enterprise, the only industrial undertaking in Democratic Germany in which the Soviet Union still holds an interest.

The German Mining Academy, founded in 1766, is in Freiberg. This institute now has about 2,500 internal and external students, compared with 95 in 1936.

Privately Owned Industry

There are more than 3,500 privately owned firms in the county of Karl Marx Stadt, mostly in light industry, including (at the beginning of 1957) thirty-one in which the state has shares. The most important of these are textile firms, which do considerable export business. A large proportion of carpets, curtaining materials and lace exported from the Republic, and millions of marks worth of musical instruments, toys,

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clothing and metal and wood products, for instance, come from privately owned firms.

Farming

Large scale farming is almost impossible in the mainly mountainous rural districts, but it is intensive; less than one per cent of cultivable land now lies waste. Rye and potatoes are the main crops. Much attention is at present being paid to mountain cattle-rearing, with the aim of supplying the whole area with local milk.

Holiday Centres

There are sixteen curative springs in the Elster Valley in the Erzgebirge mountains, some of them baths suitable for treatment of heart and rheumatic conditions and others whose drinking waters are recommended for gall-bladder and stomach ailments and for the treatment of anaemia.

24,000 patients will have been treated at Bad Elster during 1957, 90 per cent of whom were sent there free of charge by the social insurance service — compared with 7 per cent social insurance patients in 1937.

There are also a very large number of trade union holiday homes, where trade unionists can spend two weeks' holiday at a cost of 30 marks, in the Erzgebirge mountains.

(Based on articles in "Die Wirtschaft", August 1st 1957)

LABOUR M.P.s REPORT

(A party of seven British Labour M.P.s led by Mr. Ness Edwards, former Postmaster General, visited the German Democratic Republic early in August. On this page we reprint the statement issued by the M.P.s at the end of their visit. This statement was unfortunately crowded out of the previous issue of GERMAN REPORT.)

We wish, first of all, to make it clear that though we are not an official delegation we have nevertheless come to East Berlin with the full knowledge of our colleagues in the British Parliament.

The British Labour Party has historic and cordial relations — political and industrial — with their comrades in West Germany. This makes its members desirous for the same historic reasons both to know and to establish friendly understanding with the socialists in the German Democratic Republic.

We were therefore happy to accept an invitation to come and see for ourselves what conditions were like: We now return to Britain with a greater appreciation of the problems and difficulties facing the Republic and its people.

During the past week we have visited a number of cities and towns and have been interested to see something of the efforts being made to rebuild the economy shattered by war on a more enduring basis. In particular we are impressed by the new Sports University in Leipzig, the Cancer Research Hospital in Berlin, the Museum of Hygiene in Dresden and the extension to the Bergmann-Borsig Works.

In Britain we have been experimenting in the building of a number of completely new towns and because of this found Stalinstadt and the ideas and planning of it of unusual interest. Especially we admired the architectural features and equipment of its new and large school.

As we moved about and talked to people it was clear that the problem of re-unification was the matter of most concern. The British Labour Movement desires to see a United Germany. Obviously, however, the problem is one which only the German people themselves can solve. From our conversations with those in high office and with workers we believe that in spite of formidable difficulties an agreed solution must and will be found.

We have been perturbed however, if we may say so, at the expressions of bitter criticism in both the East and the West. Our fear is that these may delay rather than promote understanding. For it is our firm belief that unity can only be achieved in an atmosphere of toleration and if there is the will to compromise both by the D.D.R. and the Federal Republic.

Living as we do under a political system which places the highest emphasis on the unfettered right of all men to free political expression it is difficult for us to comment objectively on some aspects of life in the D.D.R. But if we may venture to say so, it has appeared to us that this right in the D.D.R. does not conform to our conception of individual liberty.

We had discussion with some trade union leaders about the role of the unions here both in the past and today. We were given a new understanding of their outlook and difficulties and, in return, were able to explain the functions of, and the part played by, the trade unions in Britain.

We were grateful for the opportunity of meeting the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the President of the People's Assembly and other important representatives in various parts of the country. We deeply appreciated their willingness to meet us and to answer frankly our questions and criticisms.

Finally, we would like to emphasise our appreciation of the courtesy and friendliness shown us by all sections of the community. We certainly leave with a greater realisation of the problems facing the D.D.R. and express the hope that it may not be long before Germany is once more united under a fully democratic Government devoted to the cause of Peace and mutual understanding between all peoples.

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EAST GERMAN COMMEMORATIVES

Concentration Camps

Special commemorative surcharged stamps were issued in April this year in commemoration of the liberation of the survivors of the nazi concentration camp for women at Ravensbrueck. The surcharge will go towards the cost of the memorial being built on the site of the concentration camp. The series consisted of two both measuring 32×54 millimetres: 5 Pf green, with a surcharge of 5 Pf; and 20 Pf red, with a surcharge of 5 Pf. Both stamps were designed by Rudolf Skribelka, Berlin. Date of issue, April 25th 1957.

International Peace Cycle Race

A special 5 Pf orange-coloured stamp was issued on April 30th 1957 to mark the annual International Peace Cycle Race. The stamp shows the Prague—Berlin—Warsaw route, and is decorated with miniature pictures of the Charles Bridge, Prague, the City Hall in Berlin, and the Palace of Culture in Warsaw. The stamp was designed by Bruno Petersen, Berlin.

Mining Scenes

A special series of three stamps showing mining scenes in the German Democratic Republic was issued on May 3rd 1957. The stamps, illustrated above, are the 10 Pf green and 20 Pf red showing machines used in the out-cast mining of soft coal, and the 25 Pf blue showing a miner at work with a power drill. The stamps were designed by Gerhard Heiss, Leipzig, and offset printed by the nationally-owned Deutsche Wertpapier-Druckerei, Leipzig.

International Red Cross Day

Two stamps were issued for the 10th International Red Cross Day on May 7th 1957. Both stamps, the 10 Pf green-red, and the 25 Pf blue-red, show portraits of Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross. The stamps were designed by Hajo Rose, Leipzig, and printed by the nationally-owned Graphische Werkstätten, Leipzig.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In the past few years, GERMAN REPORT has repeatedly given details about the way in which the western powers (and the West German authorities) use West Berlin as a centre for espionage, sabotage, and so on, against East Germany. These undeniable facts have, I am afraid, often been shrugged off by responsible people in the west, who should have known better.

Crossman M. P.

Now British M. P. Richard Crossman has been having a look, and here are the some of the things that he had to say about the situation in the London "Daily Mirror" of August 16th:

"This strident, prosperous half-city (West Berlin) is also the cold-war headquarters from which an anti-Communist campaign is being conducted by a shrewd combination of American dollars and German efficiency.

"The aims of this campaign are clear:

FIRST, to undermine the authority of the Communists over their East German subjects;

SECOND, to wreck the chances of economic recovery so long as the Communists are in power in East Germany.

"To this end every means is employed short of actual war.

"Here in West Berlin there are at least a dozen secret service organisations arranging espionage, sabotage, bribery and corruption throughout the Eastern Zone.

"There are two radio stations nightly exposing the private lives and official secrets of Communist bosses in the remotest towns and villages.

Blockade

"There is a full-scale economic blockade which denies East Germany, for instance, the coal and steel it desperately needs . . .

"All that I have seen in the last ten days, first in East Germany and now in West Berlin, drives me to ask one question:

"Granted that the cold war campaign is being brilliantly conducted. Granted that the Communists deserve no sympathy. Yet I still want to know what good this campaign does either to the Americans who finance it or to the West Germans who carry it out. Since we are not prepared to march our troops across the frontier and help the East Germans expel their Communist rulers, what is the point of organising a resistance movement?

"I cannot help wondering whether the only effect of this cold war campaign is: to make it more difficult to reunite Germany; to reduce the chance of the East German Communists relaxing the severity of the regime; and to increase the misery of 18 million East Germans.

"The hatred which West and East Germany are being egged on to feel for each other is a danger to world peace. Surely it is time for the British at least to use our influence in Washington and Bonn in order to stop this business and create conditions in which the two parts of Germany can co-exist peacefully together."

Little Sympathy

I think that this evidence given by Mr Crossman is made even more valuable by the fact that he has little or no sympathy for the East German point of view in all this. In a previous article from the East German city of Dresden he had, admittedly, praised the fine schools and medical services, and said that "as human beings" he liked the men who run things there better than he liked a good many politicians in West Germany; but the tone of his various articles showed that he did not really like or understand the set-up in the German Democratic Republic. But despite his prejudices and his likes and dislikes, I think he comes to a pretty sound conclusion. The cold war in Germany is a very real danger to world peace, and it is up to all of us to create conditions in which the two parts of Germany can co-exist peacefully together.

And for that purpose I still have not seen any plan put forward better than the "East Berlin Plan" tabled by the Government of the German Democratic Republic on July 27th.

At the risk of boring conscientious readers, let me just outline the plan once again:

East and West Germany should agree to become a zone of limited armaments, should request all foreign forces to withdraw, and should themselves leave the military alliances to which they are at present attached. This should be the first step towards a loose "German Confederation" in which the two German states could co-exist while working out the very difficult and probably long-term process of reunification.

No Dogma

These proposals are only proposals, not a dogma: as proposals they are open to negotiation. Why not accept the proposals as a basis for negotiation? If the discussions are successful, then a big step forward will have been taken in the general process of relaxation of tension: if the negotiations are unsuccessful, nobody will be any worse off than at present.

It is the forces which reject such negotiations which are blocking the road today.

Uncle Ho

This week seems to be visitors' week, as far as the Berlin Notebook is concerned. A few weeks ago, Ho Chi Minh, President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, also made an exhaustive, and probably exhausting, tour of the German Democratic Republic. The trip did not rob Ho Chi Minh, familiarly known as "Uncle Ho" in his own country, of his humour. At a meeting with Vietnamese children who are at school in the German Democratic Republic, he introduced the children to the various members of his entourage. Finally he came to the representative of the protocol department of the Democratic Republic, and said: "This gentleman is from protocol. You probably don't know what protocol is, so I shall explain: he is the man who tells me when it is time for me to have dinner, and when I should go to bed."

On the next day, President Ho turned to one of the Germans who was accompanying him in his car, and said: "I seem to be the biggest businessman in your Republic." His guide was suitably mystified, so President Ho pointed out of the car window at a shop sign saying "HO", the abbreviation for "Handelsorganisation", the state trading organisation which runs thousands of shops, department stores, and restaurants throughout East Germany.

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